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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Darrell Reginald May

85002

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03/11/2009

ALLEN, DYER, DOPPELT, MILBRATH & GILCHRIST P.A.

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EXAMINER

RAMPURIA, SHARAD K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/11/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

creganoa@addmg.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/790,479	Applicant(s) MAY ET AL.	
	Examiner SHARAD RAMPURIA	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-14 and 16-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-14 and 16-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Koskan** [US 6181956] & **Zhang; Lan et al.** [US 7027842 B2] further in view of **Mekuria, Fisseha** [US 20020034956 A1].

As per claims 1, 16, **Koskan** teaches:

A mobile wireless cellular communications device (Abstract, Col.2; 7-17) comprising:

A wireless cellular transceiver (120; Fig.2, Col.2; 18-38) and a controller (240; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.2; 39-52) for cooperating therewith for receiving text messages from a wireless communications network; (Col.2; 39-52) and

When in the audio message mode, outputting at least one audio message comprising speech generated from at least one of the received text messages via said headset output. (Col.2; 39-63, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15, Col.3; 32-38).

Koskan doesn't teach specifically, a headset output connected to said controller; said controller for switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset. However, **Zhang** teaches in an analogous art, that a headset output connected to said controller; said controller for switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset. (e.g. text message converted to audio signal; Col.4; 58-Col.5; 3) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify **Koskan** including a headset output connected to said controller; said controller for switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset in order to provide an apparatus and method that supports completely hands-free operation of a device.

The above combination doesn't teach specifically controller being settable to an override mode in which said controller remains in the audio message mode irrespective of a connection between said headset output and the headset. However, **Mekuria** teaches in an analogous art, that said controller being settable to an override mode in which said controller remains in the

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audio message mode irrespective of a connection between said headset output and the headset. (e.g. switch to audio mode; ¶ 0029) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to including controller being settable to an override mode in which said controller remains in the audio message mode irrespective of a connection between said headset output and the headset in order to grant techniques and apparatus for providing text messages to the user in audible form using a low complexity phonetic TTS algorithm.

As per claims 2, 10, 17, 21, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, 16, 20, wherein said headset output comprises a wireless headset output for establishing a wireless connection with the headset. (120; Fig.1, Col.1; 62-66)

As per claim 3, the above combination teaches all the particulars of the claim except wherein said headset output comprises a headset jack for a wired headset. However, **Zhang** teaches in an analogous art, that the mobile wireless communications device of claim 1 wherein said headset output comprises a headset jack for a wired headset. [e.g. wired; Col.5; 60-64]

As per claims 4, 11, 18, 22, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, 16, 20, further comprising a user interface device connected to said controller, and wherein said controller switches to the audio message mode based upon an audio message mode command provided by a user via said user interface device. (250; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15)

As per claim 5, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claim 4 wherein said user interface device comprises a keypad connected to said controller. (255; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15)

As per claims 6, 12, 19, 23, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, 16, 20, further comprising a text-to-speech module for cooperating with said controller to convert the at least one text message to the at least one audio message. (Col.3; 5-9, 32-38)

As per claims 7, 14, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, further comprising a display connected to said controller for displaying the text messages. (252; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.3; 28-31)

Claim 9 is the system claim corresponding to device claim 1 respectively, and rejected under the same rational set forth in connection with the rejection of claim 1 respectively, above.

As per claim 13, **Koskan** teaches:

The communications system of claim 9 wherein said controller is also for generating a conversion request for the at least one text message and cooperating with the wireless transceiver to forward the conversion request to said wireless communications network; and

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wherein said wireless communications network receives the conversion request and further comprises a text-to-speech module for converting the at least one text message to the at least one audio message, and wherein said wireless communications network sends the at least one audio message to said at least one wireless communications device. (240; Fig.2, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15, Col.3; 32-38)

Claim 20 is the computer readable medium claim corresponding to device claim 1 respectively, and rejected under the same rationale set forth in connection with the rejection of claim 1 respectively, above.

Response to Remarks

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-23, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharad Rampuria whose telephone number is (571) 272-7870. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. (8:30-5 EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (571) 272-7023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000 or

EBC@uspto.gov

/Sharad Rampuria/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2617